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Aide to Harriman Leaving Government

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Chester L. Cooper, Averell Harriman's right hand man in the search for a peaceful settlement in Vietnam, has left the Government to join the Institute for Defense Analyses.

Cooper's departure has no direct relationship to the current Washington view that there is no prospect now for a settlement. But his departure does reflect the view that such a moment is a good time to leave.

Just to keep his hand in, however, Cooper has arranged to devote one day a week to work for Ambassador Harriman. Thus he could be called back in a hurry if something developed.

In his new job, Cooper will spend his time on combining international affairs with domestic social problems. He also will write a book on Vietnam in collaboration with Vu Van Thai, the former South Vietnamese ambassador here

who recently criticized the Thieu-Ky regime.

A 25-year Government veteran, Cooper is an old Far East hand who joined the CIA as a China expert in 1947. He was on the American delegation at the 1954 Geneva Conference which divided Vietnam into North and South. In the Kennedy Administration he served on the National Security Council staff.

Cooper left the NSC in April, 1966, to write and do research. But four months later he joined Harriman when the President put Harriman in charge of exploring peace possibilities.

Cooper has been deeply involved in that task. He was sent to London as a contact man during the February visit there of Soviet Premier Kosygin. Both Harriman and Cooper are known to have urged a more conciliatory approach to North Vietnam in the framing of conditions for reciprocity if the United States stops the bombing of North Vietnam.